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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,087	12/20/2001	Alan B. Shuey	010071	3407

9961 7590 06/03/2003

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EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, RUTH C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3677

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/029,087

Applicant(s)

SHUEY, ALAN B.

Examiner

Ruth C. Rodriguez

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 15 March 2002 has been considered for this Office Action.
2. The finality of the rejection of the last Office action is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Macias. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Facey et al. (US 6,003,210) in view of Pasbrig (US 4,889,320) and Macias (US 5,548,873).

Facey discloses a releasable cable grip connector (23) locks a cable segment (20) within a housing. The cable grip connector comprises a housing (27), a channel and a wedge means. The housing has a first bore therethrough (24A) to receive a first cable segment and a second bore (24B) therethrough parallel to the to the first bore to receive a second cable segment (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b). The first and second

bores have a diameter that permit freely passing the first and second cable segments through the bores. The first and second bores are straight throughout the extent of the housing. The channel within the housing is disposed to one side of the first bore and acutely inclined to and, at its inner end, breaking into the first bore (Fig. 8). The wedge means within the housing in the channel and spring-loaded by a coil spring to bias the wedge means against the cable segment within the first bore to wedge the cable segment against the first bore and thereby grip the cable segment (C. 1, L. 8-20). The coil spring that loads the wedge is positioned axially within the channel (Fig. 8). Facey utilizes a tool (35) to free the cable. Facey fails to disclose using a release lever extending through a slot in the body to release the cable grip and having a second bore that permits free movement through the bore of the second cable segment. However, Pasbrig teaches a releasable cable grip comprising roller means (5), a release lever (6,9,10) and a housing (1) with a bore (15), a channel (2) and a slot (27). The slot in the housing extends parallel to the channel and to the coil spring within the channel and communicates with the channel (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-7). The release lever is fixed to the roller means and extends through the slot to the outside of the housing whereby the release lever may be utilized to move the roller means away from a cable segment (16) and permit movement of the cable segment relative to the first bore (C. 2, L. 7-16 and Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-7). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a release lever according to the teaching of Pasbrig in the each of the bores of the cable grip of Facey. Doing so as mentioned above, will facilitate the release of the cable because the release force will be directly applied to the release lever in order to move the wedge means against the

bias of the spring. Regarding to having a second bore that permits free movement through the bore of the second cable segment, Macias demonstrates a releasable cable grip connector comprising a housing (10) and a cam lever (12). The housing has a first bore (18) therethrough receiving a first cable segment (36) and a second bore (20) therethrough parallel to the first bore and receiving a second cable segment (Figs. 1 and 2). The first and second bores have a diameter allowing free passage of the first and second cable segments (Figs. 1 and 2). The cam lever releaseably retains the cable within the first bore (Abstract Fig. 1). The second bore permits the second cable segment to move freely through the second bore (C. 3, L. 58-63). The second passage takes any slack in the cable. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the second passage allowing free passage of a second cable segment as demonstrated by Macias in the cable grip connector disclosed by Facey and modified by Pasbrig. Doing so, will allow the use of the second passage to take up any slack in the cable.

Pasbrig also teaches that the roller means has a release lever extending outwardly from each side of the roller means through respective slots in opposite sides of the housing (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-7).

Pasbrig also teaches that the roller means has a single release lever extending outwardly of the roller means through the slot in the housing (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-7).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 19-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Knoche (US 1,165,785), Pasbrig (US 3,628,221 and US 4,889,320), Moransais (US 3,709,071), Wagner (US 3,939,594), Natkins (US 6,131,969), European Patent Document EP 0 013 693 A1, Swiss Patent Document 634 249 A5 and British Patent Document GB 2 210 517 A are cited to show state of the art with respect to releasable cable grips having some of the features of the current application.

Werterkamp (US 4,878,270) is cited to show state of the art with respect to a cable grip connector having two bores. One bore allows free passage of a cable segment and the other bore releasably secures another segment of the cable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C. Rodriguez whose telephone number is (703) 308-1881. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. Technology center 3600's facsimile number for before final communications is (703) 872-9326. Technology center 3600's facsimile number for after final communications is (703) 872-9327.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Ruth C. Rodriguez
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3677

R&R
rcr
May 29, 2003


J. J. SWANN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600